REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the allowance of Claims 4 and 6.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C.112

In response to claim objections set forth in this Office Action, applicant has carefully amended Claims 6 and 13 to overcome the informality problems.

Claim 6 has been amended where "and the grounding claw of the ground plate bears against the depression" originally described is replaced by "and wherein the ground plate has a ground claw bearing against the depression". Therefore, amended Claim 6 is believed to be patentable.

Dependent Claim 13 has been amended where "tow sides" originally described is replaced by "two sides".

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-3, 5, and 7-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,174,198) in view of Ueno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,247,970).

In response to this, applicants have carefully compared the subject matter claimed in claims 1-3, 5, 7-16 of the present invention with Wu et al. in view of Ueno et al. and believe that claims 1-3, 5, 7-16 are patentably distinguished from and non-obvious over Wu et al. in view of Ueno et al. and should be allowable. The reasons are given below.

Regarding amended Claim 1, an electrical connector assembly defined therein comprises an insulative housing defining at least two cavities, a plurality of first and second array of contacts received in the housing, **a ground plate disposed between the first and the second contacts, a printed circuit board having a ground trace coupling to the ground plate**, and an outer shell surrounding the housing. The outer shell has a plurality of first tabs on opposite sides thereof **mechanically and electrically engaging with the ground plate.**

Referring to FIGS. 1-4 of Wu et al., the connector disclosed therein comprises a housing defining a first and a second cavities, a first and a second connector modules received in the first and second cavities respectively, a printed circuit board connecting with the first connector module, and an outer shell surrounding the housing. The alleged first tabs 5110 of Wu et al. are provided to engage with corresponding engaging slots 5002 (Column 4, line1-2) for securing the first shell 50 and the second shell 51 together, which are completely different from the first tabs of the outer shell mechanically and electrically engaging with the ground plate in the present invention.

Ueno et al. neither discloses nor provides any teaching relating to a connector comprising an outer shell having a plurality of tabs connecting with the ground plate. In fact, as Ueno et al. disclosed, a plug connector 20 comprises a plurality of plug-type contact element arrays 22, 25 and a plug-type ground plate 28 disposed between neighboring plug-type contact element arrays 22, 25. The plug-type ground plate 28 is provided for contacting to a jack-type ground contact element 38 of a jack connector 30 which are completely different from the ground plate defined in Claim 1 of the present invention.

Examiner alleged that it would been obvious to one with ordinary skill in this art to modify the assembly of Wu et al. by including a ground plate of the present invention disposed between the first and the second contacts instead of the shell 23 as taught in Ueno et al. even if the cited prior arts fail to disclose such art. In fact, Ueno et al. direct to a connector assembly including a plug connector and a jack connector which can be used in a balanced transmission therebetween. In order to achieve the object mentioned above, the Ueno plug connector provides a plug-type ground plate and the jack connector provides a jack-type ground contact element electrically connecting with the plug-type ground plate. Dissimilarly, the present invention is direct to a connector assembly containing multi ports which can provide good signal transmitting quality between the ports. The present invention provides a ground plate located between the ports. The ground plate defined in Claim 1 is provided for engaging with the outer shell of the connector assembly. One having ordinary skill in the art will modifies the connector of Wu et al. or Ueno et al. as stated by Examiner can **NOT** obtain the subject as defined in Claim 1.

As mentioned above, **neither** Wu et al. **nor** Ueno et al. discloses a connector including an outer shell defining a plurality of tabs connecting with a ground plate. The cited prior arts do not contain any suggestion that they be combined. Even if disclosures of Ueno et al. are applied to Wu et al., the combination of Wu et al. and Ueno et al. cannot render obvious the invention as defined in the independent Claim 1. It would be necessary to make modifications in order to combine the references. In view of the absence of any clear teachings of the features of Claim 1 in either Wu et al. or Ueno et al., applicants submit that any rejection of amended Claim 1 on the basis of these references is improper.

Therefore, Claim 1 is believed to be in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 2-3, 5 and 7-10 are also patentable for reason of their dependency upon Claim 9.

Regarding independent Claims 11 and 15, there disclosed an electrical connector comprising an insulative housing defining divided first and second cavities, a plurality of first and second contacts respectively located in said two cavities, a ground plate located between and separating said first and second cavities, a shield partially covering the housing, and a printed circuit board. Wherein Claim 11 further defines that the grounding plate includes **a front section** mechanically and electrically **engaging a middle portion of the shield**, and **a rear section** mechanically and electrically **engaging the printed circuit board**. Claim 15 further defines that the ground plate includes **legs** mechanically and electrically **engaging the printed circuit board**, and the outer shell includes **tabs** mechanically and electrically **engaging the printed circuit board**.

As discussed above, neither Wu et al. nor Ueno et al. discloses a grounding plate including a front section engaging a front shield and a rear section engaging a printed circuit board. The cited prior arts do not contain any suggestion (expressly or impliedly) that they be combined, or that they be combined in a certain the manner. The Examiner's allegation that "a ground plate disposed between the first and the second cavities instead of the shell 23" would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art has no basis since the cited arts neither discuss nor consider use a ground plate instead of the shell 23 to connect with an outer shell. That is, the Examiner's conclusion must be based on what is disclosed in the cited

prior arts. However, this hindsight approach is not permissible. In view of the absence of any clear teachings of the features of independent Claims 11 and 15 in those prior-art references, applicants request that Examiner could reconsider and withdraw the rejections. Claims 12-14 and 16 should also be allowable since they respectively depend from Claims 11 and 15, directly or indirectly.

In light of the foregoing, applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. No new matter was entered. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. Applicant solicits the allowance of claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,
Wan et al.

By
Wei Te Chung

Registration No.: 43,325
Foxconn International, Inc.
P. O. Address: 1650 Memorex Drive,
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel No.: (408) 919-6137